

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22795

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG PORG UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO: WISEMEN COMMISSION ON MASS MEDIA

REFS: (A) STATE 154969, (B) STATE 180035, (C) PARIS 9512

1. CONTINUING LIAISON WITH SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS
INVOLVED IN ONE CAPACITY OR ANOTHER WITH "WISEMEN COMMISSION"
HAVE PRODUCED FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH CONSTITUTING COMMITTEE AND
CONTRACTING WORK ASSIGNMENTS TO CONSULTANTS ARE STILL
AWAITING DG'S APPROVAL, ALTHOUGH IT POSSIBLE THAT AUGUST
5 OR 6 MEETING BETWEEN COMMISSION'S EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY, DELEON, AND THE DG WILL BREAK THIS IMPASSE.
DELEON IS FIRST TO ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT NECESSARY DECISION
MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING EVEN THOUGH PLANS HAVE BEEN IN DG'S
HANDS NOW FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. PLANS
INCLUDE A PROVISIONAL AGENDA, WITH DETAILS OF FIRST SESSION;
A TENTATIVE TIMETABLE: LIST OF CANDIDATES; AND AN OUTLINE
OF FINANCIAL PLANS. DELEON SAID THAT HE WOULD TRY TO
MAKE SOME OF THESE ITEMS AVAILABLE TO
US AFTER DG DECIDES TO GO AHEAD.

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3. BEST INFORMATION IS THAT DG STILL HAS NOT SELECTED A
CHAIRMAN, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE LEARNED THAT SEAN MCBRIDE
(IRELAND), RAUL PROBISCH (ARGENTINA) AND UNNAMED INDIVIDUALS
FROM UK, AND NETHERLANDS ARE ALSO UNDER
CONSIDERATION. SECRETARIAT HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED
THAT TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH OF SEVEN

GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS BE NAMED TO COMMISSION, THUS INCREASING NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM SEVEN, AS ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED, TO FOURTEEN. DETAILS OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE STILL UNKNOWN, ALTHOUGH ONE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE SAID THAT AT LEAST 600,00 DOLLARS WILL BE REQUIRED, AND THAT WHILE MUCH OF THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE SQUEEZED OUT OF OTHER PROGRAMS, OUTSIDE SOURCES ARE ALSO BEING SOUGHT. DELEON INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE ALL FUNDS IN HAND BEFORE GETTING THE COMMISSIN UNDERWAY.

4. SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL HAS ALSO ASKED DG TO SELECT A "STATUS" FOR COMMISSION, WHETHR IT IS TO BE AN "ADVISORY" BODY TO THE DG, OR AN "INDEPENDENT" GROUP WHICH WILL STAND ON ITS OWN AND MAKE FINDINGS AVAILABLE TO DG AND SECRETARIAT, AMONG OTHERS. BEST INFORMATION IS TYAT THERE IS A TENDENCY IN THE "HOUSE" TOWARD THE CONCEPT OF AN "INDEPENDENT" COMMISSION ALONG THE LINES OF FAURE COMMISSION. PERMDEL WOULD ALSO SUPPORT THIS OPTION.

5. MAJOR SURPRISE WAS CONTRIBUTION BY FOBES THAT HENRY KISSINGER AND JAMES RESTON ARE ON"SHORT LIST" FOR THE US, WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE ELIE ABEL. WE PRESSED FOBES AND OTHER SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS ON THIS POINT, ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT THERE WERE AWARE THAT "SOMEHOW" IMPRESSION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO ABEL THAT HE WAS DG'S CHOICE, BUT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY WERE UNCERTAIN HOW THIS HAD HAPPENED. PERMDEL OF COURSE REALIZES THAT THIS IS IN CONTRADICTION TO WHAT WE HAD KNOWN TO BE THE CASE, AND WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIS INFORMATION AS FULLY AS POSSIBLE (REFTEL C INDICATES HAT JOHN KABORE, DEPUTY TO ADG NAJMAN, PASSED LIST ORDERING SECRETARIAT'S PREFERENCE AS ELIE ABEL, JAMES RESTON, AND GEORGE GERBNER).HARTMAN

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